



**April 2012**



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Town  
Manager

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**westford**  
*CAT*

[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford Residents,**

Our annual town meeting was held on Saturday, March 24th and Monday, March 26th, 2012. The attendance at our meeting was 496 for the two days. The warrant contained 37 articles, and all actions of the meeting may be found on our town's website by clicking the following link: [ATM 3/24/12](#). There were many resolutions at this meeting, which will be discussed on April 24th at the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Please mark your calendars for our annual town election, which will be held on May 1st, 2012. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers are continuing the town's "Litter League Green Team", which is gearing up to help beautify our town by picking up litter along our roadsides. Briefly, we will provide rubber gloves, long metal tongs to pick up trash, plastic bags in two colors, one for trash and one for recyclables, safety vests, and assistance with highway trucks to pick up the bags of litter. All of this will be done via a registration form on the Highway Department's web page. Stay tuned for information on which streets will be targeted on a weekly basis.

Westford Academy students are volunteering in our town over the next several weeks. About a dozen interns are helping us with painting, landscaping, GIS mapping, inventorying town property, and many other projects.

A heartfelt thank you to Andrew Kusmin for his generous donation of his original artwork to our Town Hall. These paintings have been lovingly displayed in many of our offices and conference rooms for all to enjoy.

The renovations to our historic Abbot Mill are nearing completion, and the apartments are currently being leased. A town-wide celebration, including a tour, refreshments and ribbon cutting will be scheduled in June.

Red Hat, Inc. finalized their lease with the Gutierrez Company in early April. This lease enables Red Hat to construct a 100,000 square foot expansion which is scheduled for completion in 2013, and provides for the addition of 180 new high tech jobs. The lease is for a period of 13 years.

Our town is in the process of changing our reverse 911 provider to CodeRed. Details about this change may be found on page 3 of this newsletter. The end result of this change will be better service for our residents, at a reduced rate for our town.

**(Continued on next page)**

After 10 years as Water Treatment Plant Operator, and then Water Superintendent, Bob Worthley has left the town to accept a new position in Foxboro. Steve Cronin was appointed Interim Water Superintendent while we search for a permanent replacement. Thank you to Bob for his years of service to our town, and we wish him the very best in his new position.

Please check our town's website for committee openings. A sample of current openings include vacancies on the Communications Advisory Committee, Bylaw Review Committee, Energy Committee, Agricultural Commission, Community Preservation Committee, and the Recycling Commission.

It was with great honor that I presented the Boston Post Cane to Westford's most senior resident, Bertha J. Healy, on April 4th along with Senator Donoghue and Representative Arciero. Best wishes to Bertha and her family for continued good health and happiness.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross



*Aerial photograph showing progress on Nexamps solar power generation facility located near Route 3 in Westford.*

## Public Safety News

### Emergency Notification Service for Residents



During April the Town of Westford is changing supplier for its emergency notification service. The Town has contracted with Emergency Communications Network to license its CodeRED high-speed notification solution and replace the service previously provided by CityWatch. The emergency notification system is the mechanism that Town officials use to send recorded phone messages, Emails and texts to residents informing them of impending or unfolding issues that they need to be aware of; Issues such as severe weather, power failures, dangerous accidents and disruption to transportation.

As well as saving the Town money, the new system allows officials to be more specific when targeting their messages. The system is built on maps which can be used to select residents in a variety of ways. Examples might be people who live on a specific street, people within half a mile of a particular location, people who live in flood zones and so on. This reduces the number of messages the Town has to send and will help eliminate the annoyance to residents of unnecessary calls.

However, such systems are only as good as the telephone number database supporting them. If your phone number is not in the database, you will not be called. The system has been pre-loaded with all the available public numbers, and all the numbers that residents had loaded into the old CityWatch system, but residents should still ensure that vital numbers are there.

One of the reasons the CodeRED system was selected is that residents and businesses can add their own phone numbers directly into the system's database. All businesses should register, as well as all individuals who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and those who use a cellular phone or VoIP phone as their primary number. Duplication will not result in multiple calls, so it is probably better to be safe than sorry, and add your important numbers. There can be as many numbers or Emails linked to an address as you want. You could even add your work telephone number to your home address if you wanted to. The only restriction is that the address that the numbers are linked to must be within Westford. To add numbers or Email addresses, go to the Town website [westfordma.gov](http://westfordma.gov) and follow the "CodeRED" links. The data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes.

## Health Department News

### **UNWANTED MEDICATION AND SHARPS DISPOSAL DAY TO BE HELD ON 4/28**

The Drug Enforcement Administration, (DEA) in cooperation with the Westford Health Department and Westford Police Dept, will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. It will be held on Saturday April 28th from 10am-2pm at the Cameron Senior Center-20 Pleasant Street. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high--more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined, according to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. Used syringes and lancets will also be taken on the same day at the same location. Please follow the following guidelines to help avoid unnecessary costs pertaining to disposal of the sharps materials.

- No Loose Needles
- All sharps must be disposed of in the sharps container on site  
If you do not have a personal sharps container, you may use a puncture resistant container such as a one gallon bleach/laundry bottle; a one pound sealed and taped coffee can or a 1.5 liter plastic soda bottle.
- No glass containers.
- No plastic or paper bags.

So clean out your closets and medicine cabinets and bring your expired and unused prescription meds and sharps to us on the 28th. To ensure anonymity, please cross out any identifying information prior to dropping off medications.

For questions on Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day, please call the Health Department at (978) 692-5509 or Police Department at (978) 692 2161.

### **CAMP PHYSICALS**

To assist families with getting their required physicals specifically for summer camps, the Health Department in cooperation with Pediatrics West, will sponsor a time to conduct camp physicals. This does not meet school required or needed sports physicals.

Dates: May 14  
Times: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Pediatrics West, 133 Littleton Road (Rt 110)  
Fee: \$5

***Appointments necessary, call 692-5509 to schedule.***



## Health Department News (continued)

Being a Heart Safe Community, members of the Engineering, Technology, School, and Highway departments participated in a CPR and AED Training course in April. The course was sponsored by the Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps.



Nancy Burns from the Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps and Glenn Robinson, Highway Department



Superintendent of Schools, Everett Olson, practices infant CPR on a mannequin

The Heart Safe Community designation recognizes a city's or town's efforts to prepare its staff and citizens to recognize when someone suffers a sudden cardiac arrest and how to respond.



Emergency Defibrillators (AEDs) can be found in Westford's Public Buildings

## Health Department Educational Programs

### LYME DISEASE, A GROWING PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Lyme is one of the fastest growing infectious diseases in the United States and has reached near epidemic proportions in Massachusetts. Virtually every family in Massachusetts has been affected by Lyme disease in some way. Over 4,000 new cases of Lyme disease were reported in Massachusetts in 2009. In reality, due to reporting issues, probably many times that number occurred.

Due to this growing concern, the Health Department has arranged for two public health experts to come educate the community on preventative measures which can be taken to minimize exposure to tickborne illness.

Dr Al DeMaria, Director of the Communicable Disease Bureau for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), will present an informative program on the epidemiology and clinical impact of tickborne diseases. In addition, Esteban Cuebas-Incle, Ph.D. an entomologist with the Northeast Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District, will discuss the natural history of the tick that transmits Lyme disease, babesiosis and anaplasmosis in New England. He will share measures that can be taken personally and environmentally to reduce the risk of tick exposure, tick attachment and the initiation of infection.

Date: Monday May 7  
Time: 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm  
Location: Stony Brook School

Reservations are recommended. Call 978-692-5509 by May 3rd.



## Health Department Educational Programs (concluded)

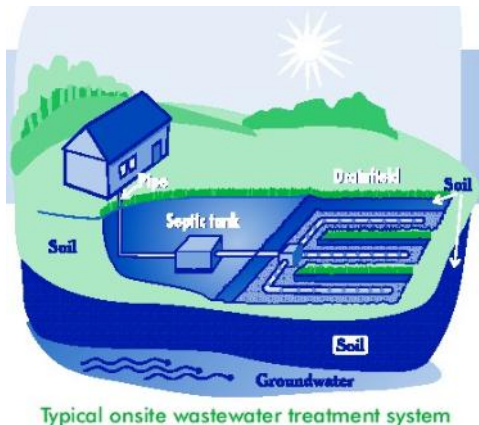
### **SEPTIC SYSTEM & DRINKING WATER WELL BASICS**

*Please join us for an informational session and Q&A regarding on-site septic systems & private drinking water wells. Specific topics will include:*

- *Septic System Care & Maintenance Basics*
- *Title 5 System Inspections and Requirements for Property Transfers*
- *Private Drinking Water Well Quality (Recommended Testing Parameters & Frequency)*

**Date:** Monday April 23rd  
**Time:** 7 P.M.  
**Location:** Town Hall- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

*Please telephone the BOH office at 978 692 5509 to register.*



## Subscribe to Town Notices

You may view notices on the website, on Twitter, through an RSS feed, or by subscribing to email alerts. Please visit [www.westfordma.gov/subscriber](http://www.westfordma.gov/subscriber) for more information.



## Health Department Volunteer Appreciation

### National Volunteer Week April 15 to 21

This week offers a great time to thank the people you know who donate their time and energy toward a good cause. On behalf of the town and the Westford Health Department, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the 550 wonderful members of our Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps ([www.UMVMRC.org](http://www.UMVMRC.org)).

For the past 8 years volunteers have provided support for everything from flu clinics, to assistance at emergency shelters, to public health education and community service. We know that without their kindness, generosity and commitment to making their community a better and safer place to live, we could not have provided the high level of services that we do!





## J. V. Fletcher Library News

### A “SNAPSHOT” of a Day in the Life of a Library

Did you know that “more people visit their local library each year than attend entire seasons of the Celtics, Patriots, Bruins and the Red Sox games combined? Entrepreneurs, students, job seekers, the homeless, the affluent, new Americans, the highly educated, parents, children, young adults, adults, seniors and the illiterate and literate all find a path to “success” at the library.”

In order to capture of a “snapshot” of what happens in a day in the life of libraries, the J. V. Fletcher Library joined Libraries across the Commonwealth and the Nation by taking photos (throughout the day and evening on Thursday, April 12) of what patrons were doing at their libraries that day.



*Mother Goose story program*



*Library Staff member, Kristina Leedburg, with members of the Book Club*

## Council on Aging News

**Presenting the Boston Post Cane to Westford's most senior resident Bertha J. Healy, born in October of 1910.**



*Town Manager Jodi Ross presenting Bertha with the Boston Post Cane pin.*



*Council on Aging Chairperson  
Helena "Mickey" Crocker  
presenting Bertha with the Boston Post Cane.*



*Council on Aging member, Dorothy Hall  
presenting Bertha with a plaque.*

The Boston Post Cane Tradition began in 1909, started by the Boston Post Newspaper. Canes were provided to New England towns by the newspaper to be given to the oldest living resident of each town.

## Engineering News

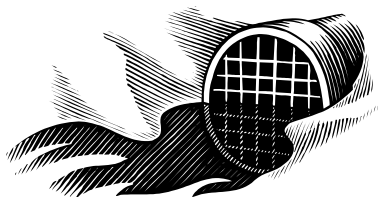
The Engineering Department recently hosted two training sessions conducted by Woodard & Curran to educate town staff about Westford's Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program. Attending, were over thirty staff members from the Highway, Water, School and Health Departments, as well as Parks & Recreation, Permitting and volunteers from the Westford Stream Team. Employees were given a basic understanding of the town's stormwater program and how to recognize an illicit discharge to the town's drainage system.

The IDDE program is an important part of the federally mandated EPA program known as the National Pollution Detection and Elimination System (NPDES). As a result of the NPDES program, Westford is required to have a permit from the EPA in order to discharge stormwater to the natural resources in town such as brooks, rivers, lakes and wetlands. In order to protect our natural resources, attendees learned what to do and how to respond when illicit discharges are found. Typical illicit discharges include: failed septic systems, hazardous waste spills and construction site runoff.



A copy of the town's Illicit Discharge Bylaw and presentation material from the IDDE Training are available online at Westford's Stormwater website:

[www.westfordma.gov/stormwater](http://www.westfordma.gov/stormwater)





## Water Department News

### Westford Water Department Honored for Drinking Water Excellence

The Westford Water Department will be honored in an awards ceremony at Waterworks Museum in Boston on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The Department has won a Public Water system Award from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, which recognizes community water systems and nontransient-noncommunity (NTNC) water systems for their outstanding performance in 2011.

There were 29 total award recipients this year split among NTNC, small community (population <3,301), medium and large community, and consecutive systems. Westford was one of 10 medium and large community systems to earn the water system award.

The top 5% highest-scoring Public Water Systems will be awarded. Scores are tabulated on a point system based on several criteria including: system compliance with the drinking water regulations for all of calendar year 2011, effective administration, no enforcement actions for the last five years, and source and distribution system protection.

The Westford Water Department is pleased to receive this recognition for our service, and endeavors to provide safe, clean, and high-quality drinking water to our customers. Rest assured that we will not rest on our laurels - we are committed to continuous improvement as a means to maintain a superior level of compliance and service.



*Westford Water Department Staff*



## Highway Department News

### TOWN OF WESTFORD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BRUSH DROP-OFF FROM OCTOBER SNOW STORM

Two Brush Drop-offs for residential storm related woody debris (branches, logs) will be available at the Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street on:

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

**8:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**8:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Residents can drop-off loose branches and logs not exceeding 4 feet in length, no bags will be accepted. Please be advised that these Brush Drop-off events are FREE and open to Westford residents ONLY. You must be prepared to show ID at the time of drop-off as proof of residency.

If you hire a contractor to assist you, a SIGNED, DATED letter from the property owner will be required. The note must include the following information:

Owners full name

Owners address

Owners telephone number

Number of Loads

Contractors name and company name

Contractors telephone number

Collection is for the OCTOBER SNOW STORM RELATED DEBRIS ONLY (Tree limbs and woody debris). Bushes, grass, stumps, leaves and other unrelated yard waste will not be accepted.

If you have any questions please call the Highway Department at (978) 692-5520.



*New Highway Department street sweeper*

## Veterans News

### Memorial Day Ceremonies

Westford will be celebrating Memorial Day on **Sunday, May 27th** with a number of events throughout the morning thru early afternoon. This date was chosen due to conflicts with other regional events.

Ceremonies could not be possible without the many volunteers and organizations who assist. We are still seeking volunteers for the events on the Common, everything from honor roll readers to adult leaders. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Terry Stader, at 978-392-1170.

#### Villages Ceremonies Schedule

Forge Pond, Lake Mattawanakee, (Pond Street/ Freedom Park). 9:00 a.m.

Forge Village Honor Roll (West Prescott Street). 9:15 a.m.

Graniteville Monument (North Main Street), Parents Market. 9:45 a.m.

Nabnasset Lake – (Byrne Ave. Dam) Oak Hill Road/Jo-Jo Lane. 10:45 a.m.

Westford Town Common. 10:45 a.m.

Flag and Program Hand-out

Reading of Honor Rolls

#### Parade

Westford Center – Roudenbush Community Center Start (Main Street), 12 p.m./Noon  
Memorial Salutes

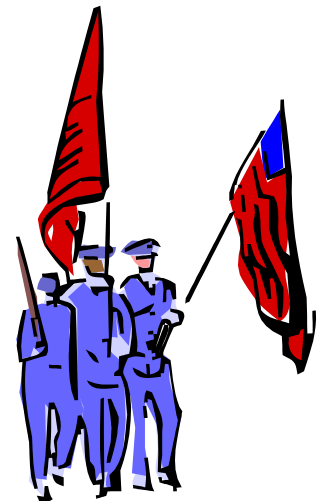
Westford Center/Common Ceremony

Our website: [www.westfordma.gov/veterans](http://www.westfordma.gov/veterans)

Our blog: [www.westfordma.gov/veterans/blog](http://www.westfordma.gov/veterans/blog)

Follow us on Twitter at: [www.twitter.com/WestfordMAVets](http://www.twitter.com/WestfordMAVets)

We are on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/WestfordDVS](http://www.facebook.com/WestfordDVS)



# Parks and Recreation News

During a special program held on April 5th the artists of Big Paper Design Inc. worked with participants on how to design and create beautiful and vibrant flower art pieces.

The flower art will be used to decorate the Westford Recreation "float" in the upcoming Kiwanis Apple Blossom parade to be held on Saturday, May 19th.



For more Apple Blossom Parade information go to: [www.westford.com/kiwanis](http://www.westford.com/kiwanis)



Westford Recreation will be participating in the town wide yard sale to be held on April 28, 9 am to 1 pm, at 35 Town Farm Road.

We are currently seeking donations to help support our programs.  
If you have any items to donate to our yard sale, please bring them to:  
35 Town Farm Road, Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 4:00pm.  
Other times by appointment,  
978-692-5532